THE . . . OMAHA PHILATELIST

R. L. SHEPARD
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
OMAHA, NEB.

Vol. IV December, 1897 No. 4

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R. L. Shepard,

2004 Wirt St., OMAHA, NEB.

The Omaha Philatelist.

A MONTHLY FOR STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. IV. OMAHA, NEB., DECEMBER, 1897. No. 4.

Our Catalogue Illustrations.

A much needed reform and one that should be particularly called to the attention of our catalogue makers is the bettering of the illustrations used in their works. At present they are a hideous lot of misfit pictures, a few fairly good, but most of them the exact opposite of all that is good or pleasing to the sight.

The Scott catalogue cuts are fairly plain, but they are nothing but very poor counterfeits. They have been drawn in imitation of the stamps, and as a result the design is frequently far from what it really ought to be. Some of the illustrations do not agree at all in construction with the model from which they were taken. Lines are left out and lines are put in. Portraits are disfigured to a sufficient extent to give grounds for a libel suit for defamation of character. In one (mis)representation of Queen Victoria that I recall to mind, the good lady's nose is twisted, she has lost the pupil out of one of her eyes, her mouth has grown to Ethiopian proportions and her hair is as badly ruffled and disordered as the Turkish question at present. She looks more like she had been on a glorious tear than the dignified womanly ruler of the great British empire. It is marked A6, and although the grammar is not of the best, I believe this is a shabby attempt to excuse the shocking appearance of the old lady by saying she has been sick.

This case is given only as an example but there are others galore, perhaps none as picturesquely awful as the one I have depicted, but bad enough for all practical purposes. When the Scott people say that a stamp is of a certain type as represented in their book they are guilty of base misrepresentation, for usually it is not so.

And before going on to consider the Bright book I wish to call attention to another matter which altho' not under my subject, is somewhat related, as it also concerns the subject of illustrations. The catalogue people offer for sale electrotypes of any cut in their book at a merely nominal figure. There are many cheap stamps which it will not pay to have special dies prepared for the purpose of counterfeiting and these cheap electrotypes offer an easy way of preparing imitations at slight expense and corresponding trouble.

For these blocks procured at an outlay of say fifty cents each, it is a simple matter to lock one up in an ordinary printing press and run off several thousand copies of the stamp. I have several counterfeits which I am satisfied were prepared in this way as they agree in every particular with the catalogue cut.

It is a foolish mistake to compare a counterfeit, or a suspected one, with a Scott catalogue cut in endeavoring to find out the differences between the imitation and the genuine. For the Scott cut is also but a counterfeit and perhaps differs far more from the original than your other imitation.

In point of following the original in imitating a stamp the Bright catalogue is far superior to our American work. The illustrations used in that excellent British production are much better than those used on this side of the water as they are prepared by a superior process. They a reproduced by what is known as the photographic plan. That is a photo is taken of the stamp and by means of chemical action this is transferred to a copper surface where it is etched in and from which the printing is done. By this method the illustration will naturally, in point of design, agree in every particular with the stamp from which it is taken.

But there is one very serious fault to be found with these illustrations. The product is a creditable one when the chemical action brings good results, but when the acids fail to properly do their work the exact opposite is true and the results are most lamentable. The illustration will be dim and in some cases the details or perhaps even the plainer part of the design almost invisible. The fine work and the small lines in the cuts prepared by this method are also likely to wear away in the course of doing so much printing as the turning out of a large catalogue. The erosion of printing wears away the finer lines and dims the entire design. These two causes have combined to make the illustrations in the Bright book not all that they might be. Many are indistinct, some dim, some dimmer and several barely visible, while of those that are indeed good there are few to be noticed. The cuts in this English book would be very valuable for purposes of comparison of counterfeit stamps with them with the idea of learning the distinctions between the imitation and the original were it not for the dimness, and that renders them useless for this purpose.

Another fault in many illustrations which I wish to protest against is the use of cuts showing the stamp as two-thirds or three-fourths of its proper size. It is no easier to make these smaller ones than those of the proper dimensions, and the appearance of a smaller stamp is very inferior and no matter if it be one of the best products of photo engraving it will be useless for the purpose of comparing with a counterfeit.

Stamp illustrating today is not, by any means, what it should be. But in the future this important subject should receive the attention of our catalogue makers, for it certainly is a much needed reform, as desirable as any in connection with the annual price list.

The best illustrations of stamps can be obtained by the photo method as that is the only way in which the exact details can be reproduced without variation. But this process must be much improved over what it is as used by the Bright company today. Now it is not preferable to any other method, but with improvement and cuts the same size as the stamps it can be made the only proper way for the reproduction of stamp designs.

Perhaps the publisher of the philatelists' supplement to the Bazarr has come nearest to this desired result; at any rate the method he uses with a few improvements would give us that which is desired. These improvements surely are not impossible in this age of invention and progress and certainly could be accomplished by the outlay of a few dollars and the use of a little time in experimenting on this line.

This subject is worthy of attention from our great publishers. It is not an unimportant one which can be passed by for correction at some future time, which time would never come. It is a serious defect in this book of which we are so proud and one that demands instant attention. To have our carefully-compiled catalogues blemished with cheap John illustrations is foolish and would seem to indicate miserly instincts on the part of their publishers. Can we not have our most used hand books a little better along this line even if it adds a few cents to the selling price? We will not begrudge the extra coin if the poorest thing about our catalogues is corrected.

GORDON C. CORBALEY.

Stand Up for Nebraska.

At the last convention of the Nebraska Philatelic society, a committee was appointed to prepare and place an exhibit of stamps at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held here next year.

This committee has already accomplished all that can be done by them alone, and they now desire the assistance of Nebraska collectors.

Space has been secured in the Nebraska state building, and the committee now asks help financially and in the shape of exhibits.

There will be many items of expense connected with this matter: among them the cost of medals, express and insurance, frames, etc.

Nebraska philatelists should be able and willing to contribute to this cause, as the effort is primarily in their behalf. *Every collector in Nebraska is hereby personally appealed to to aid us as he is able.*

The committee and the writer have contributed as follows: W. F. Hendricks, Omaha, $2; F. W. Rothety, Omaha, $2; S. Mortensen, Omaha, $2; R. L. Shepard, Omaha, $2. Any amount from 25c up will be gladly received and acknowledged in this paper. Cash or pledges may be sent to the committee direct or though the editor. The chairman of the committee is William F. Hendricks, 1711 Leavenworth St. Omaha.

The Omaha Philatelist.

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R. L. SHEPARD,
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Editorial.

THE article in last month's paper concerning western secession seemed to strike a responsive chord in the hearts of many western collectors. Several communications were received regarding the same, but we have room for only a few, which are given upon another page.

SOME think that this society should include states which border on the Mississippi. This would take in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama.

AFTER careful consideration we believe that it would be a good plan to include Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois, but not the rest. These three states have always been in sympathy with the west, but not so the southern states. This is a matter to be settled upon at once. Let us have opinions.

THERE is no reason why we should not immediately set about the organization of this society if it is to be done at all. If it is to be western secession none will be eligible to membership who belong to *any* national or eastern society. *Let this be understood.*

EVERY collector who is willing to resign from all societies except his state or interstate society, is requested to drop us a card to that effect, in order that we may know what support to expect in this movement. Do this at once, before it slips your mind. Also write to other collectors urging the same course. "The time for action is ripe; let not a day be wasted." By our next issue we hope to have the support of many, enough to immediately organize.

IT IS HERE! The long-looked-for, much abused, but still indispensible 58th. Many think that its arrival will put new life into philately generally. This remains to be seen.

Our review editor has more to say about the catalogue on another page.

OUR word contest has come to a close, and the results have been very satisfactory. Here are the winners of the first three prizes:

1. R. Morrill Shipley, Monett, Missouri.
2. Howard J. Van Cise, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.
3. Willard B. Dobbins, Barnesville, Ohio.

The prizes have been forwarded them and found satisfactory. The winners of the 125th to 140th prizes will be given a year's subscription to this paper, as the *Philatelic Californian* is no more. The lists submitted show great care and thought. The winning list contained 2011 words, the smallest, only 298.

WE desire to call attention to the exhibit fund. One hundred square feet of wall space has been obtained in the Nebraska state building which is the best place obtainable. The fact that the exhibit is to be made in the state building will exclude the entrance of any but Nebraska exhibitors, which is, in our opinion a good thing, as it will give us a chance to show the philatelic world that Nebraska is not backward in the possession of good stamps. Elsewhere we give a list of medals to be awarded. To purchase these medals the committee will need money. Nebraskans are expected to furnish this. Any contributions from 25c up will be thankfully received and acknowledged. The list is started, let us add your name to it.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that the Chicago Post-Office has on sale the 1, 2 and 5 cent envelopes of the Columbian issue.

NEBRASKA collectors should help make the exhibit next year a noteworthy success. Send in your subscription to the fund.

IT IS with pain that we note the death of Mr. T. L. Green of Mt. Olivet, Ky., which event unexpectedly occured Nov. 6. Mr. Green was recently elected exchange superintendent of the P. S. A.

THE sixth annual election of the S. of P. resulted as follows: President, E. E. Weaver; Vice-President, G. R. Kennedy; Secretary, J. F. Dodge; Treasurer, Geo. M. Frame; International Secretary, R. J. Russell M. D.; Sales Superintendent, Chas. E. Shaw; Libiarian, F. M. Townley; Auction Manager, F. S. Van Dermark; Attorney, J. A. Wainwright; Trustees, H. A. Parks, J. M. Bartells, F. W. Bradley. Convention seat, 1898, New York.

Many predict a new issue of postage stamps next year. Let us hope for a variety in design if such is to be true.

SAN Francisco dealers will make one more effort to save the "boy-trade." A large manufacturer of chewing gum in that city will be supplied by them with stamps to place in each package sold. This should be effective.

Mounting Revenues.

S. W. HACKER.

Being a collector of U. S. Revenues, and therefore considerably interested in them, I have taken the trouble to examine several collections, including one or two of the best in the state, and have found the first issue invariably mounted in the same way

Perhaps no set of stamps excel in beauty of design, etc., our first issue of revenues. Especially is this so if we are careful to pick out specimens of good color. But who has not noticed how this effect is spoiled by mounting the eight 25c stamps together and following them the ten 50c, and then the eleven $1 stamps? Who has not been made weary when showing his stamps to a non-collecting friend by the exclamation, when he sees the page of 50s, 'O, you have a lot of tobacco stamps.'' or by asking why so many of the same kind were mounted when he saw the 10s or 25s, and then when the difference was explained to have him get the last word by saying that they are "practically the same anyway." Yet, as I have said, I have never seen them mounted in a printed or blank album in any other way. There may be many collections mounted differently, but I have not run across them.

Tiring of what seemed to me such an inartistic method, I resolved to make a change, and therefore made myself a blank album and began experimenting to see if I could improve matters.

My plan was simple but the result was most satisfactory. It may not be new to many of you but I give it for what is worth. From the catalogue a list was made of each of the different kinds of stamps—the pl. card, prop., mortg., conv., in. ex., etc., and each of these was mounted as if it of itself constituted a set. Some of these fill a page of my album, the in. ex., and for. ex., for example. The other pages were easily arranged so as to contain two or more complete sets and yet have the pages well filled without putting a part of a set on one page, and the rest on another, which to my mind always spoils the looks of both the set and the page.

This plan gives a sufficient variation in colors that monotony is avoided, while the different sizes do not materially effect the arrangement nor the appearance, if a little care is taken in mounting them. The result more than repaid me for my trouble.

Possibly I may help some of you to see the advantages of this method of mounting the first issue if I give you a list of the different sets, as I made them out.

PERFORATES.

Express 1, 2 (blue), 2 (orange), 5.
Pl. Card 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Prop. 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10.
Telegraph, 1, 3.
Bank Check, 2, 2.

Certificate, 2, 2, 5, 10, 25.
U. S. I. R. 2, $50, $200.
For. Ex. 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 70, $1, $1.30 $1.60 $1.90.
In. Ex 4, 5, 6, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 60, $1, $1.50, $2.50, $3.50.
Agreement, 5.
Bill Lading, 10.
Contract, 10.
Power of Atty. 10, 25, $1.
Bond, 25.
Surety Bond, 50.
Insurance, 25.
Life Ins. 25, 50, $1.
E. of Goods 25, 50, $1.
Protest 25.
W. Recpt. 25.
Lease 50, $1.
Conv. 50, $1, 2, 5, 10, 20.
Orig Proc. 50.
Pass. Ticket 50 $1.
Probate of W. 50, $1, 2, 5, 10, 20.
Manifest $1, 3, 5.
Charter P. $3, 5, 10.
Mort. 50, $1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 25.

In mounting the sets I have combined the following: Bond and Surety Bond; Insurance and Life Ins. Perhaps some of you will not agree with me in this, but let that be "as you like it."

The following, of which there is only one stamp of each kind I gave a half page to themselves; 10c Bill of Lading, 5c Agreement, 10c Contract, 25c Protest, 50c Orig Process, 25c W. Recpt.

IMPERFORATES.

Express 1, 2, 5.
Pl. Card 1, 2, 3.
Prop. 1, 2.
Bank Check 2.
Certificate 2, 5, 10, 25.
U. S. I. R. $50, $200.
For. Ex. 20, 30, 50, 70, $1, $1.30, $1.60, $1.90,
In. Ex. 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 60, $1, $1.50, $2.50 and $3.50.
Entry Goods 25, $1.

The following are the same as the perforates; Insurance, Life Ins., Conveyance, Lease, Protest, W. Recpt., Mort., Orig Process, Pass. Ticket, Manifest, Charter P., Surely Bond, Telegraph, Bill Lading, P. Atty., Bond, Prob. Will.

PART-PERFORATES.

Express, 1, 2, 5
Pl. Card, 1.
Prop., 1, 2, 4, 5
Bank Check, 2.
Telegraph, 3.
Certificate, 5, 10, 25.
In. Ex., 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 60, $1.
P. Atty., 10, 25.
E. Goods, 25, 50.
Life Ins., 25, 50.
Conveyance, 50.
For. Ex., 50, 70.
Mortg., 50.
Pass. Ticket, 50.
Lease, 50.
Prob. Will, 50.

The following are the same as the perforates; Surety Bond, Bill Lading, Contract, Bond, Ins., W. Recpt., Protest.

The above is, I think, correct, according to Scott's 57th.

By this method of mounting you will probably use more pages of your album than by the other, but I think you will be amply repaid, for the space, and also for time and trouble by the appearance of the set.

Western Secession.

WAYNE NEBR. Nov. 22, 1897.
EDITOR OMAHA PHILATELIST.

Dear Sir: There seems to be a strong and rapidly growing sentiment in favor of organizing a new stamp society, to be composed of western collectors—in fact a Trans-Mississippi Society. There are many reasons why such action is desirable. One of the strongest is that the old societies composed of the younger collectors are not as active or as progressive as they were in the past. Really they are playing out. The members who in the past have kept up the high standard are growing tired of society work or are not devoting so much time to stamps, while the newer collectors do not take to the organizations dominered as they are by a class who are not interested in the work they control. This class government is killing the old societies.

But a very small per cent of the members of a national society can ever attend a convention while with a sectional society the conventions are not so widely scattered and members have a better opportunity to attend. This statement is proved by the N. P. S. which often has fifty per cent of its members at a convention, of course a Trans-Mississippi society could not do so well as this but the fact remains the same.

There are such close relations existing between western collectors that it is a wonder that a successful western society has not been started before.

Hoping that steps will be taken to organize a Trans-Mississippi society I am very respectfully,

FRED B. WOOLSTON.

FOX LAKE, WIS., Nov. 11.
R. L. SHEPARD, Omaha.

Sir: In the O. P. at hand I noticed an article on Western Secession and think it a good plan. Let the society be composed of members from the states bordering on and west of the Mississippi, let those interested in the work subscribe an amount to be agreed upon, use this for current expense and elect temporary officers until next July or August when a convention of members may be called, by-laws and constitution adopted, officers elected and if it is thought advisable the society incorporated. Of course in the meantime the projectors are risking much but who is not ready and willing to serve a cause so noble. Shall that great and glorious west be backward in this? Shall we bow longer in submission to the gang-work of the east? No, action is necessary and action at once, I stand pledged to do my part in whatever plan is proposed.

W. J. PARKER,
A. P. A., C. P. S.

The writer thinks an association for western collectors only a good idea. A Philatelic Reunion in Omaha the latter part of next Aug-

ust would discount any eastern convention. Denver boys have already promised to come, and with Chicago, and St. Louis, would have a great time. A western association should include Illinois and all states west of the Mississippi river. Chicago collectors have always been loyal to western men.

EDITOR O. P.

Sir: I read your article in the last Omaha Phil. regarding secession and reorganization. It is the only thing that should be done, and let us get to work at once. With the co-operation of all western philatelists we can make it a triumphant success. We will surely have the support of all loyal western philatelists. I will do all I can for that great cause. yours very truly,

CHAS. D. LOWE.

R. L. SHEPARD,

Nov. 29, 1897.

Dear Sir: Am heartily in favor of your western society scheme, but urge that no person be admitted who cannot furnish first-rate local references. Several attempts have been made to start a western society, but have never been successful. With the proper push, you can make a go of your scheme.

Yours truly,

HERBERT C. BEARDSLEY.

In our next issue we shall give detailed lists of premiums for exhibitors, conditions of participations, class divisions, in fact everything connected with this enterprise.

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These coupons are "trade stimulators" in more ways than one. They induce collectors to patronize dealers who advertise in the O. P. They gain us hundreds of new subscribers which we would get in no other way, and the more subscribers we get the more advertisers we get.

If you are a collector and purchase stamps of any dealer who advertises in the OMAHA PHILATELIST, be sure to ask him for a coupon. It is not necessary to buy $100 worth of stamps to get one, simply mention the fact that you saw the advertisement from which you are buying in the OMAHA PHILATELIST.

Press Comment.

The 58th edition of Scott's *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* came to hand the first of this month. In outward appearance, style, binding and size it is an exact copy of those editions which have preceded it in the last four years. Many varieties of shade and papers are listed for the first time. As to the prices themselves, little here be said, as the book is already in the hands of those of our readers who are interested in them. In our own opinion, the general appearance of the edition is one of marked improvement, altho' many disagree with us. Owing to the lack of time at our disposal for examination of the work we are unprepared to go into any details regarding it.

The holiday number of the *Eastern Philatelist* contains a wealth of reading matter for the collector. Various writers deal with "German Cancellations," "About Philatelic Advertising," "Experiences of a Stamp Dealer Abroad," and the current events in Canada, New York and Washington.

We have received price lists from the J. T. Starr Stamp Co., E. T. Parker, C. H. Mekeel, the Columbian Stamp Co., also P. N. Wolsieffers 27 auction catalogues. C. A. Riberiro & Co. favored us with their 9th wholesale price list.

The New York issue of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* is the finest publication of its kind which has ever graced our table.

The California Stamp and the *Boy's Own Philatelist* are new ones since our last issue. Both are in the interests of young collectors.

Other publications received but while space does not allow us to particularly notice: The Stamp Reporter, The New York Philatelist,

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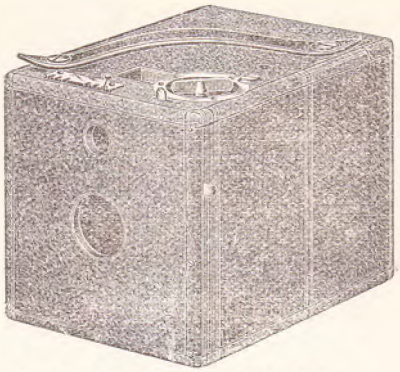
The cold weather does not retard work on the buildings and grounds of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. The main buildings are nearing completion rapidly, and the prospect for a great show is very encouraging.



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1c Western Australia 1893 2d gray 1c
1c Costa Rica 1889 2c sea green unused 1c
1c Uruguay 1892 1c green used 1c
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* indicates unused

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Mexico
20 or 25c scarlet
Hawaii
1883 1 or 2c
*1892 1c green "P G"
1894 1 or 2c
Costa Rica
*1889 2c sea green
1892 2c yellow
Official 1 or 5c
Canada
1859 5c beaver
Registered 2 or 5c
Jubilee each 1c
British Guiana
1882 1 or 2c
San Marino
*1894 2c red
Straits Settlements
1 or 8c green
Newfoundland
1c green
Obock
*2c brown and green
Western Australia
1882 8c 1 or 2d
Peru
*Envelope 5c green
Bulgaria
*1 or 2s green
Perak
*1c lilac and green
Portuguese Indies
1886 1½ or 4½ reis
Patiala
Official 1887 ½a
Official 1887 1a
Official 1892 ½a
Turkey
1862 2p pale brown
Wuno
*½ cent
Cape of Good Hope
4d, 6d or 1 shilling
Cuba
*1874 50c green
Shanghai
*1c brown and blue
*Postage Due 1c
Timor
*1894 5r yellow
Ceylon
Revenue 5c blue
United States
1891 Due 1 or 2c
Jamaica
1874 1 or 2d
1885 1d carmine
Official 2½ gray
Servia
*1896 1p dull red
Barbadoes
*1896 1 farthing
Siam
*1889 1a
Holkar
*1892 ¼ anna

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* signifies unused	per 10	per 100
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Australia, '51-63, assorted	08	40
*Argentine, '92 ½c blue	05	35
Bavaria, 3 to 5pf well asstd	03	15
Belgium, 15 var asstd	03	15
Canada, '59 1c pink	50	4 75
Canada, '68, 3c red	20	1 75
Canada, '68, 1c red-brown	1 10	10 00
Cape of Good Hope, 5 var asstd	03	15
Ceylon, Prov. Scott's No 123	65	6 00
Colombian Republic, well asstd	10	60
*Costa Rica '63, ½r blue	05	45
Egypt, unpaid, 3 var asstd	15	1 40
Egypt '92 Official, brown	10	60
*French Colonies, finely asstd	05	45
*Greece '96, 1 l	05	40
*Horta '97, 2½r	10	50
Hawaii '82, 2c rose	15	1 10
Hawaii '83, 1c green	15	1 40
India '65, ½a blue	10	90
Jamaica, Official, asstd	10	50
Jamaica '89, 1d lilac	03	15
Mexico revenues finely asstd	05	45
Orange Free State, asstd	10	60
*Peru envelope, 5c square cut	15	1 25
Portugal, well asstd	03	15
Spain '74, 1p green	10	75
Spain, well asstd	03	15
Venezuela, 25c brown	05	40

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